

1 just Atlantic City itself. Go offshore, as we natives
2 refer to the mainland communities. Huge shopping
3 centers, new homes and new schools, all attest to the
4 prosperity casinos have brought here.

5 As a matter of fact, our town of
6 Northfield just opened a new \$17 million community
7 school which replaces four antiquated ones which were
8 promptly sold and now become new tax rentables.

9 Mine is but one story out of thousands,
10 but very important to myself and my family.

11 Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Thank you.

13 Cindy Armstrong.

14 MS. ARMSTRONG: Good evening, and welcome
15 to Atlantic City. My name is Cindy Armstrong. I've
16 been in Atlantic City since the mid-1960s. My father
17 was a union pipefitter who always had to travel out of
18 town for work. Most of the time he would be gone
19 before sunrise and not return until I was in bed.

20 My mother worked on Atlantic City
21 boardwalk in the summers from noon until midnight just
22 to make a decent paycheck and to have enough hours in

1 for unemployment.

2 I never got to know my father that well at
3 all because he traveled so much to find work.

4 Before casino gaming came to Atlantic
5 City, my husband and I rented an apartment here, and
6 I worked at a Cumberland Farms convenience store for
7 minimum wage and no health benefits. My husband
8 worked at a boardwalk bingo hall for minimum wage and
9 no benefits and a layoff each December, January, and
10 February.

11 In October of 1980, I was hired as a
12 cocktail server at Harrah's Hotel Casino. I worked
13 six hours a day and had health benefits. Soon we were
14 able to save enough money for a downpayment on a new
15 car. In November of 1981, we had our second son, and
16 we did not have to worry about hospital bills or
17 doctor bills because of our health and welfare
18 benefits.

19 In June of 1985, my husband started
20 working at Trump's Castle Hotel Casino, and between
21 the two of us we were able to save enough money for a
22 downpayment on a new home and the purchase of another

1 new car.

2 Having jobs in the casinos also afforded
3 us the opportunity to take many vacations and many
4 weekend trips together.

5 Money and material things are not the only
6 blessings I thank God for. I thank God for my
7 children's father who was always around to coach their
8 sports teams, play games with them, help them with
9 homework, and to know his children and participate in
10 their growing up.

11 These are things I never had a child
12 because Atlantic City had no jobs to offer my dad.
13 The gaming industry has provided myself and my family
14 with an all around true quality of life.

15 Thank you for listening to me.

16 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Thank you, Cindy.

17 William Maguire.

18 MR. MAGUIRE: Good evening. My name is
19 Bill Maguire. I'm a member of Local 54.

20 CHAIRMAN JAMES: I couldn't have guessed.

21 MR. MAGUIRE: I'm Bill Maguire, member of
22 Local 54, bartender at the new Sheraton Hotel. I've